

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



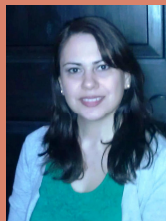
Ann Charles



Teresa Smith



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

January 16, 2013

Gun Buy-Back

All of the TPD officers who worked in support of the buy-back last week handled themselves in a professional manner, keeping the safety of those participating at the core of the event. In a post-event Release, Chief Villasenor had these comments:

The Tucson Police Department helped to facilitate a Gun Buy-Back Event in collaboration with Ward 6 Councilmember Steve Kozachik on January 8, 2013 at the Hardesty Midtown Substation located at 1100 South Alvernon Way. The event was scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., but started a little earlier at 8:30 a.m. in order to better service those who had lined up early to participate in the event. The Gun Buy-Back activities concluded at approximately 12:30 p.m. Overall, the event accomplished its purpose, with a total of 206 firearms voluntarily turned in for destruction. In addition, media reports indicated that a group organized by (former – my edit) Senator Frank Antenori arranged approximately 30 private-party transactions for the sale/purchase of firearms, whose owners originally brought them in order to participate in the Gun Buy-Back event.

We would like to clear up some confusions that were reported regarding the Gun Buy-Back event. Some media accounts alleged that the atmosphere of the event was tense when it initiated. Statements were also made indicating that parties either participating in the event or protesting the event were behaving in an “unruly” manner. In reality, the event started out without incident or any contentious activities and remained that way throughout its entirety. There were also rumors circulated that indicated there were at least a couple of people who were turned away from the event due to the fact that they had weapons that had defaced or missing serial numbers. This is not accurate. There was one weapon turned in with an obliterated serial number. That weapon was set aside for further investigation, as it is a crime to deface or obliterate the serial number from a firearm. No arrests were made or are anticipated in relation to that gun. No one was turned away during the course of the event. Lastly, there was an erroneous report that persons affiliated with a group protesting the Gun Buy-Back event and/or affiliated with private-party sale/purchase transactions were barred from exercising constitutionally protected rights. Requests were made of both the protestors as well as those engaging in private-party transactions to refrain from lingering in the parking lot area due to pedestrian and motorist safety concerns. They were also asked to refrain from soliciting the event participants once they had entered the Gun Buy-Back line in order to encourage an atmosphere of respect for the choice made by the citizens who opted to participate in the event. Areas where the protestors could safely con-



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance 791-3154

Planning and Development Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas 889-1888

Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus Hotline

243-7999

Environment Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish 628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

gregate were identified for them, and they were encouraged to remain in those areas. Their willingness to abide by our requests was greatly appreciated, as it allowed for persons on both sides of the issue to equally express their opinions and choice.

The Tucson Police Department was the natural choice to assist with this event and to be able to provide a safe venue for the Gun Buy-Back event coordinated by Councilmember Kozachik. We are pleased that we were able to directly assist citizens with the disposal of 206 firearms. In addition, the firearms purchased/sold during private-party transactions achieved a desired result of helping to put at ease the minds of those who no longer wished to possess those weapons, and instead complete a transaction with someone who could exercise greater care and responsibility for them.



There was far too much unproductive hype by some over this event. TPD did their work well. Those who acted out on the periphery unwittingly made the point that we have a significant loophole in the law. When a person can walk up to a stranger on a street corner, hand him a wad of cash and walk away with a firearm with no idea of the person's background or psychological condition, that's an issue. I am currently working with Council Member Uhlich on researching the merits of possibly ceasing the issuance of gun show permits on City property until the person-to-person gun sales without background checks is addressed. There is a clear public health and safety issue that we need to consider. More on that in the days to come.

On the whole issue of gun safety that is now finally being widely discussed, it's important that advocates on both sides of the issue don't dig in and refuse to adopt some rational changes, and to avoid over stepping certain bounds that respect the 2nd Amendment on one side, and protect the safety of the public in general on the other side. I think we can get there if we allow those who will approach the issue dispassionately to craft the changes that are needed. The loud voices of those who look on firearms as some sort of fetish can no longer carry this issue off the radar screen. Just because we can't do everything doesn't mean we shouldn't do something that will be of value.

Party Change

I owe it to you to close the loop on the reasons I've changed my party registration to Democrat. I'll simply use a few excerpts from the letter I wrote, and expand very briefly. If you didn't get a copy of the full text of the letter, call Diana @ 791.4601 and she'll send it out to you.

Over the past two election cycles it has become clear that the local and Arizona State Republican Party is being driven by a small, but vocal faction that has taken it far to the political right. That faction has effectively taken over the Party leadership and is driving an ideological agenda that I do not believe reflects the common will of the community.

I continue to believe that there is a strong centrist element in the Republican Party. But it is not being given a seat at the decision making table. I've been very vocal in pointing that out – leadership in this State appears to prefer to argue an agenda from the far right. I haven't broken faith with the center of the party. The party has broken faith with us.



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331
Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators
Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

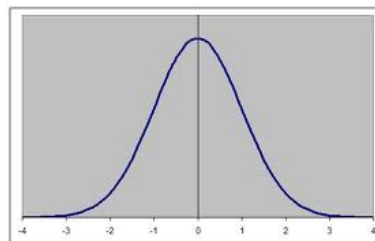
City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

The local Republican Party leadership has disengaged from its involvement in local issues. The Pima County GOP was completely silent throughout our 9 month Ward Redistricting process, has played no role what so ever in our budget prioritizing discussions, and has not engaged at even a minimal level when we have addressed other significant issues such as our water policy, public safety or transit.

The local Republican Party leadership is simply not involved with the issues that we're addressing on a daily basis at the M&C level. They engage – both directly, and through media conduits – in heated rhetoric, but when it comes to forming policy that impacts each of you, they're not at all involved. Again, the party has broken faith with the electorate.

The Arizona Republican Party is an ideological outlier. I am not, and I see nothing that indicates that leadership is inclined to move in any direction but further away from what I believe are the values of this community. I appreciate the support I have been given by those in the Party who share these feelings. I also appreciate the support I have been given by both Independents and Democrats who have openly recognized my efforts to craft common sense public policy, untethered from an extreme ideological position.

I believe the majority of Tucsonans are ideologically on the inside of the standard bell curve.



Those are the people left out when a party lurches to an extreme place on the political spectrum. The Republican Party leadership has done that on both a State-wide and local basis.

In doing so, they've broken faith with the membership who sits in the middle, willing to work collaboratively across the aisle for common sense solutions to our community's issues.

As I noted in the letter, nothing in my approach to studying the issues is going to change. I'll put in long hours, and won't enter any policy issue with a preconceived notion about what the final outcome should look like. It is my belief that the Republican Party is going to have to hemorrhage some of us from the center before it understands the damage it is doing to itself as a relevant partner in the community discourse.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Council, and hope to earn your respect as one who listens to a diverse set of voices before landing on a particular policy direction. That was my promise back in 2009, and it continues to be today.

Golf Operations

We're working our way towards making the golf operations more financially solvent, and in the process possibly finding alternate uses for at least two of the courses. One is El Rio. There are public meetings scheduled for that course beginning this week. The other course is Fred Enke. The process for change of use out there is a little different than El Rio.

Our D.C. Staff has looked at the relevant requirements for changing the use at Enke and has drafted us some comments. What they sent is not a legal opinion, but is reflective of their reading of what will be asked of us before we make the space anything other than a golf course. We're looking into changing it into an outdoor recreation facility, including some areas set aside as a natural passive park.

Because the facility was initially funded using Land and Water Conservation Fund money,

our proposal has to be reviewed by the LWCF State-level Office and the National Park Service as well. What they say will determine the level of review we ultimately have to go through before being approved for the change of use.

In an effort to begin that process, City staff took some actions. Here's a short review of what they did. Note that they report that the NPS has advised our Parks people that turning Fred Enke golf course into an outdoor recreation facility constitutes a "significant change of use." I guess I'm not buying that since golf is in fact an outdoor recreation activity. But read on and there's a conclusion at the end of this. This is an excerpt from City Manager Miranda:

ALTERNATE USE FOR FRED ENKE GOLF COURSE

- A letter was sent to Arizona State Parks to advise of the City's interest in consideration of an alternate use of the golf course
- State Parks staff subsequently notified the National Park Service of this intent and the National Park Service advised that they considered the change in use to be a significant change in use.
- A conference call was conducted on Monday, December 17 that included Vice Mayor Romero and her staff, staff from Bracy Tucker in Washington and department staff to strategize how best to address the NPS decision. It was determined that a conference call should be conducted with the NPS staff and that the call should include you, Kelly Gottschalk, Diana Rhoades, Mac Hudson and me. The timing of that call will be based on recommended questions and sequencing from Bracy Tucker staff.
- I have inquired of other colleagues through the National Recreation and Parks Association if they have experienced similar requirements for a significant change in use.
- A meeting with staff from Arizona State Parks was scheduled for Thursday, December 20 but will need to be rescheduled in early 2013 due to a conflict with their schedules.
- It is certain that a community meeting is required to solicit public input for proposed changes in use and that meeting will be scheduled in January.

What we're doing appears to be changing the use of an outdoor facility from an activity that can be considered 'obsolete' under the definition put out by the NPS, to one that is an acceptable new use. That doesn't appear to be a 'significant change.' Here are a couple of points to support that:

b) The NPS LWCF Program Manual (Effective 10/01/2008) states the following regarding obsolete facilities:

...a recreation area or facility may be determined to be obsolete is:

- 1. reasonable maintenance and repairs are not sufficient to keep the recreation area or facility operating;*
- 2. changing recreation needs dictate a change in the type of facilities provided;*

Rounds of golf being played are down by several hundred thousand in recent years. That seems to be a 'changing recreation' need that would allow the facility to be considered 'obsolete' under the NPS's own definitions.

So, did Staff skip a step in getting the "significant change in use" determination? Here's one final excerpt from the guidelines:

The PD (proposal description) portion of the PD/ESF identifies and provides descriptive

information about the proposal to the federal decision maker.

*The ESF (environmental screening form) portion of the PD/ESF serves as part of the federal administrative record required by NEPA and its implementing regulations which supports a chosen NEPA 'pathway' which must be completed **before final action can be taken by the NPS**. It is intended that States/project sponsors use the PD/ESF as early as possible in the state/local project planning process. The ESF portion of the PD/ESF will administratively document 1) a **Categorical Exclusion recommendation** or 2) the necessity of further environmental review through an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as necessary*

Staff has not yet completed the Proposal Description form that describes the intended use. It appears from the NPS guidelines that a part of that application process can be a request for a categorical exclusion from any further studies – that would open the door for us to begin the conversion, short of having to justify it through an extensive NEPA significant change of use process. M&C gave staff direction to begin that process and seek the exclusion. Once we get it, the process for changing the course into a new outdoor recreational use should be pretty straight forward.

While that process is on-going we are also issuing Requests for Proposals to see if a qualified management group wants to take on the operations of some, or all of our courses. They'll have to bring forward a game plan that incorporates operating revenues sufficient to cover capital needs. That's a tall order, but we're all interested in seeing what sorts of proposals are submitted.

2nd Saturday's February Block Party

By way of reminder, pencil in February 9th for 2nd Saturday's. The Streetcar team has committed to getting Congress Street opened up by then and there are plans being laid for a huge celebration downtown that night. The merchants along Congress are gearing up for the night – it'll start at around 6pm. Check out the Fox Theater web site for their schedule, and come early so you have time to visit a variety of shops and booths.

County and Anabolic Steroids

Another quick note – in case you missed it, last week the County joined the M&C in banning the administration of anabolic steroids to racing greyhounds for the purpose of performance enhancement or to suppress estrus. We did it earlier in the year, and now they've done their part on shutting the door on the Tucson Greyhound Park management from sending dogs out into unincorporated Pima County and shooting them up.

The Arizona Department of Racing is not actively engaged enough in inspections at the track. They don't have a transparent process for reviews of steward reports or inspections related to track conditions. The Pima Animal Control Center needs to be more aggressive in inspecting conditions in the kennels. If all of the steroids had been stopped (as was promised by track manager Tom Taylor) then we should be seeing dogs going into heat. Without those inspections, we have no way of monitoring the situation. This article from the National Greyhound Association is instructive:

Tucson Greyhound Park has lifted its ban on new female racers on its active racing list--a ban provoked by area ordinances banning the use of steroids in racing females, traditionally administered to prevent them from coming in season (see Track Talk item on p. 19 of No-

vember/December 2012 Greyhound Review).

Females are being allowed to go into heat and taken off the track and segregated into a kennel for females in heat, TGP General Manager Tom Taylor told the NGA. They remain off as long as they need to be before being allowed to race."

We are allowing females to come into Tucson again," Taylor adds.

Taylor said TGP is reducing its number of race days from six to four weekly, beginning the week of Jan. 14. The track will race on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Shortly after passage of the latest ordinance by the City of Tucson in 2012 (the City of South Tucson had passed a similar ordinance in 2008), the track announced that it was requesting owners to only send male greyhounds to Tucson.

I thank the Board of Supervisors for taking this action. Now, with a new legislative session about to begin in Phoenix, maybe we can get some action from up there in areas such as the ADOR transparency, eliminating the "hardship tax credit" the track enjoys, and decoupling live racing from Off Track Betting. If there's a market, the track should exist without your subsidy.

ParkWise Changes

Following the change in leadership at the ParkWise office, M&C has been working with Donovan Durband, and now Daryl Cole (new TDOT Director) to craft some new parking regulations that will allow for the PW system to be less of a financial burden on the General Fund, while at the same time addressing some of the enforcement issues that were becoming troublesome to many of the residents from whom we hear. ParkWise has held several public sessions to gain citizen input. Some changes are coming as a result of what they've heard.



ParkWises' enforcement boundary is the Tucson City Limits. Their focus however is in the central city area where the impact of the University has caused the need for special considerations. ParkWise will continue to patrol those central areas, and will be ready to address calls from outlying areas when they're called for service. Residentially permitted areas will continue to receive the greatest attention, as they should – they're paying for it.

Safety related violations will be enforced, regardless of whether or not a formal complaint was filed. We can't allow cars to be parked in areas that block public safety access to fire hydrants, for example. However, with respect to nuisance violations, PW agents will be instructed to exercise discretion, and will issue warnings as educational tools when violations are not of an egregious nature.

One area that will change is on streets that are less than 26' wide, parking on unimproved areas off the street will be allowed. If the street exceeds that width, you must allow pedestrians a 4' walking path, thereby not forcing them into the roadway as a place of refuge. Otherwise, you may be cited.

Finally, PW management is going to study the rates we charge at meters for on-street parking. Right now, we're not providing any incentive for people to use the garages, with

the result that parking spaces that are located in front of businesses aren't turning over as rapidly as is needed to support the merchants. Our meter rates are lower than those of many other Western Cities, as well as rates charged by UA operated meters. So, for the next couple of months, PW will do some parking studies to determine usage, and turnover at various times of day, and days of the week. They'll come back later in the spring with suggestions as to how, and where we should adjust parking meter rates. For now, though, they'll stay as they are.

Palo Verde Neighborhood

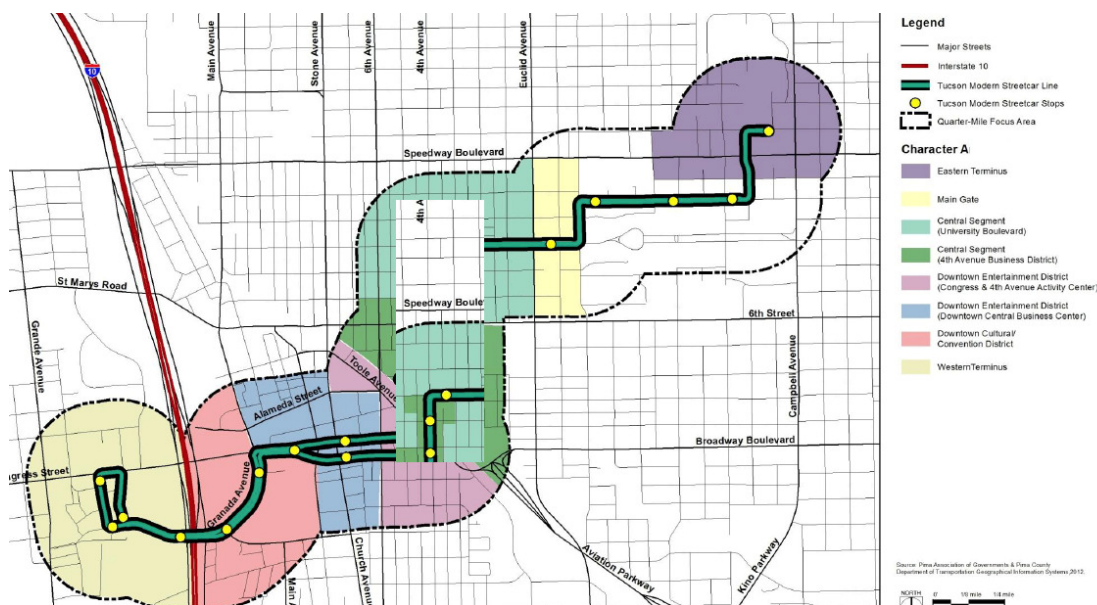
Before Christmas I wrote about donations being collected on behalf of refugee kids who are attending Catalina Magnet High School. The Palo Verde neighborhood folks exceeded their own goals. Now they're at it again. Check out this excerpt from the most recent PVNA newsletter (the "T" is their neighborhood President, Ronni Kotwica):

*Last Sunday I mentioned that the **65 Youth On Their Own at Catalina** are always in need of clothing, and personal items. An anonymous donor has contributed \$300 in supplies to YOTO. This neighbor wants our PVNA neighbors to know about this donation. The email to me states: **these kids need toothbrushes, under wear, socks, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, body wash, etc. These are children we ALL need to help because we CAN save them! THANKS** for the generous cash donation, and to Christy-a PVNA Neighbor & dental hygienist for the toothbrushes & toothpaste, and neighbors Emily, Lynn, Sandy, Mary & Roland for clothing and personal items. As Susan was ill on Friday, the donations will be delivered this coming week. I'll toss it out to you again...**if you have any adult clothing, or personal hygiene products that you would like to donate, send me an email.***

This is just one of the neighborhoods in Ward 6 (actually throughout the City) that steps up and helps their own. If you'd like to respond to the donation request, here's the email address: paloverdena@gmail.com

Streetcar Land Use Planning

Finally, all week long there are design meetings taking place that will form the basis for land use proposals related to areas surrounding the Streetcar corridor.



The corridor winds through the UA campus, over to 4th Avenue, down Congress and out to the west side of downtown. The adjoining map shows the route, and it shows the overlap into surrounding neighborhoods that is under discussion for design alternatives.

The first meeting took place on Monday night of this week over at the Rialto. Corky Post-er gave an informative presentation on the challenges and goals for the design discussions. Then, audience members had an opportunity to share their thoughts. That opportunity will continue throughout this week.

Instead of listing all of the meetings, I'm going to suggest you go to the Tucson Velo web site. It has all of the times and locations listed. There are all sorts of stake holders who should take advantage of this change to give their input. The array of topics that will be covered include:

- 1) Historic Preservation, Neighborhood Preservation/Compatibility and Housing Afford-ability
- 2) Parking, Connectivity, Traffic and Multimodal Transportation
- 3) Streetscapes, Walkability, Character and Sense of Place
- 4) Economic Development/Implementation

This is a significant investment of your tax dollars. How it is designed will also impact your pocketbook, and if you live in the surrounding area it will impact your lifestyle – to greater or lesser extents depending on how the corridor is built out. It's worth your while to get involved at some level this week.

The Final Presentation will take place at The Historic Rialto Theater on Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 10 am.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

This week and next week at the arts and entertainment venues in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Saturday, January 19, 8:00pm. **"The Fab Four"** All ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Wednesday, January 16, 7:30pm. **"Clint Black: 2013 Acoustic Tour"**

Friday, January 18, 7:30pm. and Sunday, January 20, 2:00pm. **"Paper Moon"**

Saturday, January 16, 7:30pm. **"Chick Corea & Gary Burton"**

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.

Arizona Theatre Company presents **"Freud's Last Session"** by Mark St. Germain

Saturday, January 19 – February 9, 2013.

www.arizonatheatre.org

Tucson Convention Center <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/tcc/eventcalendar>

Leo Rich Theatre

Sunday, January 20, 3:00pm. AZ Friends of Chamber Music **"Sergey Antonov & Bernadene Blaha"**

TCC Exhibit Halls

Friday, January 18 & Saturday, January 19. **"Tucson International Coin Show"**

Saturday, January 19 through Monday, January 21. **"Club Cactus Juniors Volleyball"**

Arena

January 17 through January 19, 7:30pm. **"AZ Wildcat Hockey vs. Oklahoma"**

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, October 6 and ending January 20:

"Barbara Rogers: The Imperative of Beauty, A Fifty-Year Retrospective"

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), 265 S. Church Ave.

Current exhibition: **The AIR Show & Vinjon Global Corp: Quietly Taking Over the World**

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00pm.

www.Moca-Tucson.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S. 6th Ave.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

The Drawing Studio, 33 S. 6th Ave.

Ongoing Exhibit, Opens February 2 and runs February 24

“The Way of the Brush – Brush Spirit: Yoshi Nakano”

<http://www.thedrawingstudio.org/>

Jewish History Museum, 564 S. Stone Ave.

Open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 and Friday, Noon to 3:00pm

Special hours for school and group tours, for more information call 670-9073

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Meet Me at Maynards

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Farmers’ Market at Maynards

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

On the plaza at Maynards Market & Kitchen. 400 N Toole in the Historic Train Depot

Santa Cruz Farmers’ Market Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

For other events in the Downtown/4th Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.org

Other Community Events

Loft Cinema www.loftcinema.com/

Arizona State Museum – Woven Wonders (beginning April 28)

The Arizona State Museum is debuting a sample of 500 pieces from the world’s largest collection of Southwest American Indian basketry (over 25,000 pieces). Visit

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu for more information.

UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing

“100 Years of Arizona’s Best: The Minerals that Made the State”

Flandrau Science Center

Join the Flandrau Planetarium on the University of Arizona Campus for their weekly

Planetarium and Laser Show. Call (520) 621-4516 or visit www.flandrau.org/ for events and information.

Draft Plan Tucson Open Houses

The City of Tucson Housing and Community Department will be hosting five public open houses to review the draft Plan Tucson document. Come to any of these open houses to learn more about the plan and share your thoughts.

- Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7:00-8:30pm. Ward 2 Council Office. 7575 E. Speedway Blvd, Conference Room.

Visit www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson for more information and comment cards.

Community Food Bank Citrus Gleaning for 2013

The Community Food Bank is offering to pick surplus citrus from homes and businesses in some areas of town. They term this service “Gleaning” or harvesting food that would otherwise go unused. They are currently accepting and picking up already picked fruit now, but will begin the actual gleaning program on January 22 and end on April 30. For more information on how to turn your excess fruit into food for those who need it, contact Lou Medran at 449-8340 or lmedran@communityfoodbank.org

29th Annual Senior Olympic Festival January 18 – 27

Tucson Parks and Recreation and Tucson Old Pueblo Credit Union present the 29th Annual Senior Olympic Festival. This festival aims to promote health, fitness, and an active lifestyle among our seniors. The event is open to anyone 50 years or older and has events and activities at more than 30 venues throughout the City. For more information on venues, events, etc. please visit www.tucsonseniorgames.org or 791-3244.

Arizona Friends of Chamber Music - Wednesday, January 23

Arizona Friends of Chamber Music will be celebrating their 50th piece of commissioned work on Wednesday, January 23 at 7:30 at the Leo Rich Theatre. This original work, “Piano Trio” by composer Lowell Liebermann will be premiered by the acclaimed Trio Solisti.

Visit www.arizonachambermusic.org for more information.